



Phase II Storm Water Program

Winter 2019

Mill Creek Removed From 303(d) List

Mill Creek was removed from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management's final 303(d) list of impaired waters for the year 2018.

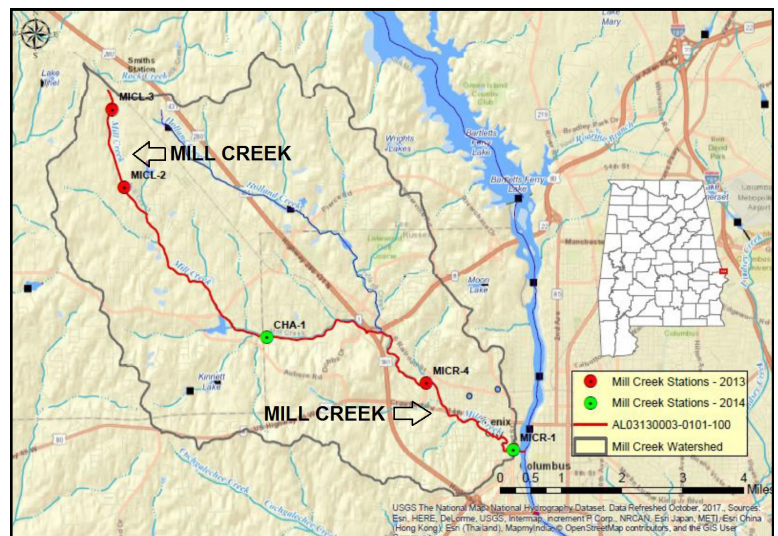
About the 303d List:

The term "303(d) list" is a state's list of impaired and threatened waters. Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act authorizes the EPA to assist states, territories and authorized tribes in listing impaired waters and developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for these waterbodies. A body of water is considered "impaired" if it fails to meet one or more of the state's water quality standards, such as if the water is no longer drinkable, swimmable, fishable, or useable in other beneficial ways. The goal of the Clean Water Act is "to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters"(33 U.S.C §1251(a). The law requires states to establish priority rankings for waters on the 303(d) list and to develop TMDLs for these waters. A TMDL includes a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that can be present in a waterbody and still meet water quality standards. States are required to update and resubmit their impaired waters list every two years. This process ensures that polluted waters continue to be monitored and assessed until applicable water quality standards are met.

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About Mill Creek:

Mill creek is located in the cities of Smiths Station and Phenix City in Russell and Lee County, Alabama. It is 9.93 miles in length from it's point of beginning to the Chattahoochee river. The Mill Creek watershed drains an area of approximately 24.8 square miles to the Chattahoochee river. It was listed on ADEM's 303(d) list in 2006 due to it not meeting water quality criteria to support its designated use of fish and wildlife. In 2008 Mill Creek was listed for organic enrichment with the source of impairment described as urban development.



Mill Creek Cleanup:

Efforts to address these concerns have spanned several years and included many partnerships. Phenix City worked closely with Auburn University and others to form a comprehensive program for the restoration of Mill Creek. Slopes were stabilized along Mill Creek, boulders were moved into the creek to generate oxygen, and invasive species were removed. Volunteer cleanups were organized, where as much as approximately 1,300 pounds of trash were removed from the watershed in one day. An invasive plant removal field day was also held where the group removed invasive plants and planted non-invasive beneficial plants. The community has been heavily involved in the cleanup through both educational programs and direct volunteer work. These efforts have improved the water quality of Mill Creek and promoted a healthy ecosystem for years to come.